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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Report of the Secretary-General*

Corrigendum

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* Cuba's response was sent on 20 May 2002. It was not included in document A/57/179 due to an error on the part of the Secretariat.

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Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2002]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cuba joins the group of States that energetically and unequivocally rejects the application of unilateral extraterritorial coercive measures as a means of political and economic compulsion on the developing countries.

2. Once again, in the light of the persistence of such practices, Cuba deems it necessary to express its conviction that the application of unilateral coercive economic sanctions is a flagrant violation of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, which states that "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind."

3. Although the General Assembly has repeatedly rejected such practices, the Government of the United States of America continues to apply unilateral coercive economic sanctions in the conduct of its foreign policy. No other country in the world applies such measures so openly and so harshly. The Office of Foreign Asset Control of the United States Treasury Department, whose task it is to apply the measures associated with this type of sanction imposed by the United States, considers them to be a powerful means for attaining foreign policy and national security interests/goals.

4. To cite just one example, between 1997 and 2001, the United States Government promulgated 59 laws and executive orders authorizing unilateral economic sanctions. Thirty countries were affected by these new measures. Thus, according to the 2002 study of new sanctions prepared by USA Engage, there are now 78 States under a regime of unilateral economic sanctions by the United States.

5. The Cuban people have endured a genocidal blockade unilaterally imposed by the United States for more than 40 years. The goal of this blockade is to bring to their knees, through starvation and disease, a people who are merely trying to fully exercise their right to self-determination and to defend their progress, well-being and dignity.

6. The United States continues to uphold section 211 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999, even though the World Trade Organization has found various aspects of the Act to be incompatible with its rules and, in particular, in breach of the principles of non-discrimination and most-favoured nation. These actions constitute a violation of the principles, aims and rules governing trade among nations.

7. For years, the international community has been calling on the United States Government to end its financial, commercial and economic blockade against the Cuban people. Every year, the calls for the lifting of this very hostile policy grow louder. And yet the present United States Administration is ignoring these demands. Just recently, on 17 January 2002, a government spokesman stated that the President would oppose any attempt to ease sanctions against the Cuban regime.

8. The Government of Cuba joins with the many which have rejected this type of legislation and once again expresses the conviction that the United Nations will play its rightful role and will see to it that the will of the international community is done and that its decisions are implemented.